

DDA 76-3690

27 July 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

FROM : [REDACTED]
Assistant for Information, DDA

SUBJECT: First Meeting of Working Group on Index of
Material Released to Public Domain

1. The first meeting of the short-term working group to address the problem of an index of material released to the public domain was held on 22 July in the DDA conference room. In attendance were: [REDACTED]

2. The undersigned advised the group that this first meeting was intended to surface the problem with which we are faced in the creation of an index of material released into the public domain and to solicit the individual member's views on how best this problem could be approached. The Chairman pointed out that Mr. Blake is concerned that our original goals of an index of material released under FOIA and Privacy may well have been expanded to a degree which mitigates against the establishment of any workable index given our present manpower and financial resources.

3. In the discussion that followed, the representative members on the working group spoke to the goals they had in mind relating to the index. It soon became apparent that because of the differing interests of the components represented on the working group, any single index being responsive to all requirements in which interest was expressed would, indeed, be a massive undertaking. The Chairman brought the attention of the members to the DECAL system being operated as a pilot project in IPS, and he expressed his opinion that this might serve as a system upon which we could build for broader purposes. It was, nonetheless, the consensus of the working group that we must make an effort to define the scope of the index to the point where it would relate to manageable amounts and types of data. It was clear from the discussions that as of the time of the meeting the definitions of what types of data should be in the index were not clear in the

minds of any of the members. Opinions ranged from establishing an absolutely all-inclusive index to the development of a selected index only of that material having a relatively high degree of flap potential.

4. After considerable discussion, the Chairman suggested that the meeting be adjourned with the idea of regrouping next week after representatives had had a further opportunity to discuss this problem with officials of their components. He urged that in the discussion of possible alternatives and definition of the index that such things as contracting out to commercial facilities be considered. He emphasized that regardless of what direction we take, the matter weekly became more urgent and that we should consider a choice of a course of action to be a priority matter.

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